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SOME STATEMENTS OF POLITICAL AND INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR EAST TIMOR.

MR HAYDEN (ALP): 26 February 1981
"Our servility towards Indonesia seems to know no bounds, despite that country's appalling record in Timor..."

CONGRESSIONAL APPEAL TO PRESIDENT REAGAN (October 1982):
A bipartisan group of 75 senators and representatives, lead by Republican Senator Paul Tsongas (Senate Foreign Relations Committee) signed a letter to President Reagan protesting the Timor tragedy, and calling for a full inquiry into events there. They cited reports of widespread hunger and human rights abuses and urged the Indonesian Government to allow international relief agencies into East Timor.

NZ LABOUR PARTY LEADER - MR D L LANGE 1983:
The Labour Party leader, Mr Lange would like to see an independent organisation such as the United Nations or the Red Cross investigate conditions East Timor....that it was an inherent premise of Labour's Foreign Policy that peoples of the world had a right to self-determination.

ALP SENATOR GORDON MCINTOSH (August 1983):
Chairman of the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defense,
"Only when the Australian public comes to realise that the shame is ours...because of the role that our governments have played in the betrayal of East Timor will there be any hope of justice being done."
"We cannot allow the hideous crimes of committed in the name of Indonesia's expansion policies to be buried by conservatives and public indifference"

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (July 1983):
Amnesty International has issued numerous reports of well documented abuses of human rights in East Timor, and has released an authenticated copy of an 87 Indonesian military manual containing secret instructions describing the use of torture in East Timor.

BRITISH PARLIAMENTARY HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (September 1983):
Lord Avebury, Chairman of the British Parliamentary Human Rights Commission, presented to the commission, a petition signed by 200 European parliamentarians from eight countries, calling for self-determination in East Timor. He warned of an imminent military blitz by Indonesia.

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS REPORT (June 1984):
Such reports as have come out of East Timor indicate a degree of repression which suggests that the government has little popular support. These include reports of systematic use of torture, arbitrary killings and disappearances...."

MONSIGNOR CARLOS BELO, BISHOP OF DILI (February 1984 by smuggled letter):
"Ten battalions in Lospalos alone, and even with these they're not winning the war....In every district they have arrested people .... others are made to disappear...I ask Monsignor to continue to pray for us and to make and appeal to the free world to open its eyes to the barbarities of which the Indonesians are capable."

CONGRESSIONAL APPEAL TO SECRETARY OF STATE GEORGE SCHULTZ (July 1984):
A further letter, by a bipartisan group of 123 members of the US Congress said, "Recent reports indicate that the death and sufferring in the former Portugese colony are continuing....we cannot overlook the situation in East Timor where, as in Afghanistan, a people are living under a military regime imposed by force, in violation of international law."

EAST TIMOR

The Rt. Hon. David Lange, speaking on Checkpoint, 12.12.84:

It seems certainly clear now that East Timor has been incorporated into the indonesian republic. The circumstances in which that was done are, of course, to be deplored.

The fact is, that the process certainly seems to be irreversible. There is no one who would realistically suggest that there is any alternative government there.

And we now have, uh, sporadic fighting, armed resistance by somewhere between 200 and 800 Fretilin people. We have had a very heavy degree of government retaliation about August last year after what seemed to be a concerted piece of uprising. There is some evidence that human rights were violated to some excessive degree at that time. There is also evidence that the Fretilin held villages up to ransom to secure supplies and stocks. What we know now is that the government is determined to persist in its amnesty policy, and that it seems inevitable that there will be no hope for a successful Fretilin uprising. The strength of the armed resistance has shown a steady decline.

Economically, the province is far below the standard of affluence experienced in other parts. That that reflects the total neglect of the Portuguese administration. There is some evidence of a growing confidence in people that the Indonesian government are going to deliver what they promised which is a parity of economic strength with other parts of Indonesia within the end of this five-year plan.

The report showed that the Ambassador travelled widely. In fact, far more widely than he thought he would be able to. That there was clearly evidence of government security actigity, but no substantial evidence of resistance to it. And indeed, life seemed to befunctioning as well as could be expected.

So the human rights situations are being dealt with by court process, and, in fact, rather than the traditional heavying or military action against people thought to be insugents, people are now being put on trial, given effective legal aid, and in some cases have been acquitted. That is a very marked development from what used to pertain.

(Q.: Can you make a comparison between what the situation is now and what it used to be under the Portuguese, for instance?)

Oh, that is very clear. The Ambassador's report shows firmly that there is a marked improvement in the quality of life both as to economic well-being, and it certainly has the implication of liberty actually better overall, that is the implication of the report. Because, you see, the Portuguese were colonial rulers of a not very benign character in East Timor.

(Q.: What are the implications for N.Z. now in terms of its relationship with Indonesia and East Timor?)

I think we ought to make sure that we move to target aid to East Timor and there is some projects there which could benefit with New Zealand assistance, in particular the area where you have cattle and dairy cattle, because we have special expertise which is used in other parts of the region and can be there. Basically it is to target that.

It is also to make clear on a government to government basis, but not by public rebuke our monitoring of human rights situations in East Timor, taking them up with the Indonesian authorities. It is clear that Indonesia is perfectly prepared to do that.

Lange criticised for East Timor remarks

By MURRAY McLAUGHLIN

FOREIGN AFFAIRS Minister David Lange has betrayed Labour Party principles, the East Timor Independence Centre said yesterday.

The Wellington-based lobby group monitors Indonesia's occupation of East Timor and campaigns for its right to self determination.

The group said Mr Lange, reporting last week on an Indonesian-sponsored visit to East Timor by New Zealand's Jakarta-based ambassador, had said:

- There was clear evidence of security activity but no substantial evidence of resistance;
- Suspected insurgents were being put on trial rather than heavied, and in some cases had been acquitted;
- There was a marked improvement in the quality of life and more liberty than under the former Portugeuse colonial rule.

East Timor Independence Centre spokesman Harry Bruhns said he reacted with anger and disbelief to Mr Lange's comments, which gave New Zealand's de facto support to Indonesia's annexation of East Timor.

"This stance would be reprehensible enough if there was a little or no active military resistance to the Indonesian military occupation. That is untrue," Mr. Bruhns said.

The ambassador's report of his May 1983 visit also said there was little local resistance.

"Yet in August 1983 the Indonesians mounted a massive and well-documented military operation to crush without mercy the Fretilin resistance," Mr Bruhns said.

He asked why the ambassador reported security activity and had his movements restricted if there was no resistance.

"Why, if the situation in East Timor is as stable as Mr Lange implied, doesn't Indonesia freely admit United Nations and other observers.

"And why did Mr Lange not call for free access to East Timor to allow a real test of the truth of his statements," Mr Bruhns said.

After he met the Indonesian foreign minister, Dr Mochtar, in Wellington in August last year, Mr Lange said he would like an independent organisation, like the United Nations or the Red Cross to investigate conditions in East Timor. He said then that people of the world had a right to self determination.

The Labour Party's September conference urged the Government to change New Zealand's vote at the United Nations.

The party wants to support the withdrawal of Indonesian troops from East Timor.

The conference also sought diplomatic recognition of Fretilin as the rightful representative of the East Timor people.

- Mitterrand slams Australia.

P7